

Appendix B

Clean Amended Written Description

PAINTER'S TOOL TRAY

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0040] FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a topple resistant receptacle of the invention.

[0041] FIG. 2 is a top plan view of the receptacle of FIG. 1.

[0042] FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view of the receptacle of FIG. 1 taken along about line A-A' of FIG. 2.

[0043] FIG. 4 is a perspective view of another topple resistant receptacle of the invention.

[0044] FIG. 5 is a top plan view of the receptacle of FIG. 4.

[0045] FIG. 6 is a cross-sectional view of the receptacle of FIG. 4 taken along about line B-B' of FIG. 5.

[0046] FIG. 7 is a top plan view of a brush tending disk of the invention.

[0047] FIG. 8 is a cross-sectional view of the disk of FIG. 7 taken along about line C-C' thereof.

[0048] FIG. 9 is a bottom plan view of the disk of FIG. 7.

[0049] FIG. 10 is a top plan view of a further brush tending disk of the invention.

[0050] FIG. 11 is a cross-sectional view of the disk of FIG. 10 taken along about line D-D' thereof.

[0051] FIG. 12 is a bottom plan view of the disk of FIG. 10.

[0052] FIG. 13 is a top plan view of an adapter plate of the invention.

[0053] FIG. 14 is a bottom plan view of the adapter plate of FIG. 13.

[0054] FIG. 15 is a cross-sectional view of the adapter plate of FIG. 13 taken along about line E-E' thereof.

[0055] FIG. 16 is a perspective view of a ladder hook of the invention showing attachment to a receptacle of the invention in phantom.

FIG. 17 is a front view of the ladder hook in position on a ladder rung.

FIG. 18 is a bottom perspective view of the adapter plate incorporating the ladder hook, while in use on a ladder.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0056] At the outset, it should be clearly understood that like reference numerals are intended to identify the same structural elements, portions or surfaces consistently throughout the several drawing figures as such elements, portions or surfaces may be further described or explained by the entire written specification, of which this detailed description is an integral part. Unless otherwise indicated, the drawings are intended to be read together with the specification, and are to be considered a portion of the entire written description of this invention.

[0057] Turning first to FIGS. 1-3, wherein an embodiment of a topple resistant receptacle 1 is illustrated as being a molded plastic, generally shallow pan shaped receptacle, having a generally flat bottom surface 10, a generally rectangular first end 11, a generally circularly curved second end 12, and a top surface 13 having generally concentric paint can securing means illustrated as raised shoulders 14 and 15 surrounded by spill retaining wall 16. In one embodiment, the surface area of the bottom surface is generally at least twice the surface area of the bottom of a conventional cylindrical gallon paint can. Spill retaining wall 16 is illustrated as a double walled structure having inner wall 16a and outer wall 16b spaced apart by slot 16c. Connecting edge 16d, connects outer wall 16b to inner wall 16a and is illustrated as having elongate guide members 17, which are sized and dimensioned to insert into slot 16c to enable stacking of multiple receptacles of the same or similar embodiment and are spaced apart to provide a defined area to rest the handle or the like of a painters tool therein.

Spill retaining wall 16 forms a barrier for restraining the flow of liquids within receptacle 1. Retaining wall 16 extending upwardly from top surface 13 of receptacle 1 and together with top surface 13 forms a liquid holding well of sufficient volume to retain liquid which may spill and/or leak from a paint container secured within the well. In one embodiment, the height of retaining wall 16 is at least sufficient so that the volume of the liquid holding well formed within the area surrounded by retaining wall 16 is greater than about 30 in.sup.3. Retaining wall 16 can generally be formed anywhere within the boundary of receptacle 1, providing it surrounds the paint can securing means, but in one embodiment is arranged along about the periphery of the interior surface of receptacle 1 and is dimensioned greater than about 3/8 inch in height.

Receptacle 1 can be formed from any suitable material such as plastic, metal and/or cellulosic materials. A receptacle molded from new and/or recycled cellulosic material is an inexpensive receptacle for throw-away use. A metal formed receptacle, which may be rust resistant or treated to be rust resistant is also inexpensively manufactured and is typically lighter in weight than a plastic or cellulose formed

receptacle. In another embodiment, receptacle 1 is formed from a plastic material, such as a flexible plastic material.

In an additional embodiment, receptacle 1 is molded from a flexible polymeric material and spill retaining wall 16 is positioned about around the perimeter of receptacle 1. In a further embodiment, retaining wall 16 is a double-walled arrangement having generally parallel, spaced inner and outer walls connected along their top and/or bottom margins. In another embodiment, retaining wall 16 is a double-walled arrangement connected together along their top margins with the bottom margin of the outer wall, as viewed from the bottom surface, generally defining one side of an open slot between the double walls. The bottom margin of the outer wall may be outwardly or inwardly curved so that the outer edge thereof faces toward or away from the body of receptacle 1, but in a preferred embodiment the edge of the outer wall faces downwardly along the perimeter of receptacle 1.

The double-walled arrangement allows the exterior outer wall to bend and absorb shock separately from the inner wall, reducing the intensity of the reactive movement of any fluid in a paint can mounted to receptacle 1 and thus reducing the probability of spill from the can when the outer wall is bumped or the like from the side. In a particularly preferred embodiment, the edge of the outer wall faces downwardly and extends slightly below the plane of the bottom surface of receptacle 1, such slight downwardly extension of the edge of the outer wall tending to increase resistance to sliding movement of receptacle 1 when it is resting on a drop cloth, rug and the like. In another embodiment the bottom surface of receptacle 1 is roughened and/or contains ribs, projections or the like which engage a flexible surface on which it rests to further resist sliding movement.

Generally, receptacle 1 can be of any convenient polygonal, curved, combined or the like shape. In an embodiment for use with convention cylindrical paint containers, receptacle 1 is in the form of a flat, shallow elongate pan having a double walled spill retainer wall along its perimeter, with a first end of the pan having spill retaining wall 16 forming a generally rectilinear shape and the opposite end having a curved spill retaining

wall. Such combined shape has advantages over a round, oblong or polygonal form. The curved end allows the convenient placement of a typical cylindrical paint can securing means closely adjacent to the curved retaining wall allowing easy one-handed lifting of receptacle 1 at the curved end by minimizing the leveraging effect of the weight of a liquid filled paint can, while the rectangular end maximizes shelf space for holding painters tools, and allows close placement of receptacle 1 to walls and/or corners.

Placement of the retainer wall at or about the perimeter, particularly the double-walled embodiment, provides structural mass for one-handed gripping of receptacle 1, an outer wall for absorption of shock from kicking or the like and a flexible edge for resisting sliding movement. Top surface 13 joining the walls, provides a surface on which guide means or the like can be mounted and/or molded for enabling an organized and/or secured placement of painter's tool handles or the like, and secure stacking means.

In an additional embodiment, two or more elongate guides are arranged on top surface 13 connecting spaced retaining walls 16 on a generally rectilinear end of a receptacle, spaced apart to enable positioning and/or securing a painters tool or the like between them. The guides may even be spaced to standard dimensions of particular painters tools, for example brush and/or scrapper handles, enabled to grip tools therebetween and securing them from inadvertent movement. The guides may be sized and dimensioned to insert into the slot between the double-wall of receptacle 1, such that upon stacking receptacles the guides of a bottom receptacle insert between the spaced walls of the top receptacle, securing adjacent receptacles in an organized stack for shipping convenience. In an embodiment useful for polygonal shaped paint containers, the form of receptacle 1 is generally polygonal, rectilinear, or oblong rectilinear.

[0058] In the embodiment illustrated in FIGS 1-3, raised shoulders 14 and 15 having the paint can securing means, are shown as being generally concentric, circular raised shoulders which intimately molded with and extending upwardly from the top surface 13 of receptacle 1. Raised shoulder 15 is illustrated as of greater diameter and raising higher from top surface 13 of receptacle 1 than raised shoulder 14, both being configured to

secure conventional generally cylindrical metal paint containers. Generally circular raised shoulder 14 is illustrated as having inwardly extending ridge 14a at about its upper end, which forms one leg of interior slot 14b, with top surface 13 forming the other leg. Interior slot 14b, is sized to accept the base ridge of a metal cylindrical quart, pint or the like, with removal of the base ridge of the can being resisted by inwardly extending ridge 14a. Forming receptacle 1 from a resilient plastic, enables forced outwardly movement of the upper end of raised shoulder 14 to provide secure rotatable mounting of the cylindrical can to top surface 13 of receptacle 1.

[0059] Raised shoulder 15, is sized to engage a cylindrical paint can, such as a metal or plastic can, of greater diameter than raised shoulder 14, for example a conventional cylindrical gallon metal paint can. In the preferred embodiment illustrated, raised shoulder 15 is stepped, so as to comprise support shoulder 15c as well as inwardly extending ridge 15a. Support shoulder 15c is arranged at about the same height of raised shoulder 14, so that inwardly extending ridge 15a forms one leg of slot 15b while support shoulder 15c forms the other, arranged to securely hold the gallon paint above raised shoulder 14. Similarly to raised shoulder 14, forming receptacle 1 from a resilient plastic, enables forced outwardly movement of the upper end of raised shoulder 15 to provide secure mounting of the cylindrical can to above raised shoulder 14 to receptacle 1.

[0060] FIGS. 4-6 illustrate a further embodiment of the invention wherein a generally flat bottom surface, topple resistant receptacle of the invention is illustrated as having a generally polygonal top surface 23 having generally a polygonal paint can securing means illustrated as raised shoulder 24 surrounded by spill retaining wall 26. Spill retaining wall 26 is illustrated as a double walled structure having inner wall 26a and outer wall 26b spaced apart by slot 26c. Connecting edge 26d, connects outer wall 26b to inner wall 26a and is illustrated as having elongate guide members 27, which are sized and dimensioned to insert into slot 26c to enable stacking of multiple receptacles of the same or similar embodiment and are spaced apart to provide a defined area to rest the handle or the like of a painters tool therein.

[0061] In this illustrated embodiment, paint can securing means includes an intimately molded, generally polygonal raised shoulder 24 which extends upwardly from the top surface 23 of receptacle 1 and includes inwardly extending ridge 24a at about its upper end, which is particularly suitable for gripping a mating base mold ridge generally found on recently commercialized polygonal plastic paint containers. It should be understood, that polygonal raised shoulder securing arrangements may also be arranged as illustrated in FIGS. 1-3, to engage varying sizes of polygonal plastic paint containers, and/or a securing means may comprise a mixture of polygonal and cylindrical shoulder arrangements. It should be further understood that the generally shape of receptacle 1 does not limit such receptacle to a particular shape of the paint can securing means.

The paint can securing means can be any convenient means for removably mounting a paint can to receptacle 1. Standard commercial paint containers generally include quart and gallon cylindrical cans as well as recently commercialized rectilinear containers. Standard metallic cylindrical and rectilinear pint, quart and gallon containers are generally formed to comprise a generally flat base having a ridge encircling its perimeter formed from connecting the sides to the base. Such ridge protrudes outwardly from the sides and/or downwardly from the base and can be conveniently grasped by suitable means for securing the can to receptacle. Recently commercialized plastic rectilinear containers having rectilinear bases generally comprise a suitable ridge along the side(s) of the container proximate the perimeter of the base, which can also be conveniently grasped by suitable securing means.

In one embodiment of the invention the securing means engages the inside surface of a ridge protruding downwardly along the perimeter of the base of a paint container to secure it to receptacle 1. Such securing means generally includes a raised shoulder on top surface 13 of receptacle 1, sized and dimensioned so that the shoulder fits closely within the boundary formed by the protruding ridge around the base and engages the inside surface thereof at points along the ridge. In such embodiment the raised shoulder is sufficiently resilient to enable forced insertion of the shoulder into the area formed by the downwardly protruding ridge and has sufficient structural memory to maintain a

restraining grip on the ridge. The raised shoulder is generally rectilinear or circular to conform to the inside margin of the ridge, and may contain one or more longitudinal or vertical ribs or the like thereon to improve the grip of the shoulder against the protruding ridge along the perimeter of the base. In another embodiment, a rectilinear or cylindrical shoulder includes a longitudinal ridge along the surface of a resilient shoulder which engages the ridge of the container to resist removal of the container from the paint can securing means.

In another embodiment, the securing means engages the exterior surface of a protruding ridge of a paint container to secure it to receptacle 1. In such embodiment the securing means generally having one or more raised shoulders on top surface 13 of receptacle 1, sized and dimensioned to engage the outside surface of the protruding ridge. In this embodiment, the raised shoulder(s) is generally flexible to enable forced insertion of base of the container into the area surrounded by the raised shoulder, and the surface of the shoulder engaging the protruding ridge may contain one or more horizontal or vertical ribs or the like to resist removal of the protruding ridge from engagement.

In an additional embodiment, receptacle 1 includes a plurality of separate securing means, generally having raised shoulders arranged concentric to each other. In one embodiment a first circular raised shoulder is dimensioned and sized to engage the inner or outer surface of a ridge of a first standard cylindrical paint container with second or more concentric circling raised shoulders sized and dimensioned to engage the inner or outer surface of larger second or other larger sized cylindrical paint container ridges. Thus for example a first circular upwardly extending raised shoulder is dimensioned to engage the side and/or top of the circular ridge along the base of a cylindrical paint container with the bottom of the circular ridge of the container engaging and being supported by the upper surface of receptacle 1. A second circular shoulder, generally concentric to the first, extending upwardly slightly higher than the first shoulder is dimensioned to engage the side and/or top of the circular ridge along the base of a cylindrical quart paint container, and includes a base ridge on the inside surface thereof which engages and supports the bottom of a base ridge of a cylindrical quart paint

container at or above the height of the first circular shoulder. A third still higher raised shoulder with appropriate base ridge engages a ridge of a cylindrical gallon circular paint container and supports same at or above the height of the second circular shoulder. In a similar manner, generally concentric polygonal raised shoulders can be arranged to engage different sized rectilinear paint cans with base ridges.

[0062] FIGS. 7-9, illustrate a slot shielding device of the invention generally having a disk 30, having a top side 30a, a bottom side 30b, an exterior perimeter 31, an interior perimeter 32 and central opening 33.

Conventional paint containers, are typically cylindrical cans which have covers that fasten to the top of the can by forcing a raised circular shoulder contained on the cover, into a mating circular attachment slot along about the edge of the top of the cylindrical can. In typical painting technique, a painters brush is dipped into paint in the cylindrical can and excess paint is wiped from the brush by dragging the bristles along the side of the brush along the inside edge of the opening to the can. Since the can opening is cylindrical and most painters brushes have straight sides, the center of the brush gets very little wiping action and becomes over-filled with paint. Typically, repeated wiping action results in paint dripping into the mating circular attachment slot of the cylindrical can, which fouls the slot and reduces the efficiency of seal between the can and the cover.

The brush tending means generally includes a slot shielding disk having a large central opening therein, containing means for wiping paint from a brush spaced from the inside edge of the can to resist the dripping of wiped paint into a cylindrical attachment slot of a conventional paint container.

In one embodiment of the slot shield, the central opening of disk 30 is generally circular, the exterior perimeter of disk 30 is sized larger than the outside diameter of a conventional cylindrical paint can, and the diameter of the generally circular central opening in disk 30 is sized smaller than the interior diameter of the opening of such

conventional cylindrical paint can. The bottom side of disk 30 includes generally concentric first and second raised shoulders along about or adjacent to its interior and exterior perimeters respectively. The first shoulder is sized and dimensioned to engage the inside perimeter of the opening to the cylindrical paint can and the second shoulder is sized and dimensioned to engage the outside perimeter of the cylindrical can and securely grip the top of the can between the shoulders sufficient to resist casual removal of disk 30 from the cylindrical can.

In one embodiment, the raised shoulder along about the interior perimeter of disk 30, includes a raised ridge which extends outwardly toward the concentric exterior raised shoulder of disk 30, the raised ridge being dimensioned to forcibly engage a ridge generally comprised along the interior perimeter of the opening of conventional cylindrical paint cans for greater grip thereto. In a further embodiment, disk 30 includes a gripping tab along its perimeter to assist in removal of disk 30 from a tight fit over a can, such tab generally having a protrusion along the exterior perimeter of disk 30 which can be readily grasped and typically including a small opening therein for convenient hanging storage.

The top side of disk 30 generally includes a raised wiping shield arranged along about its generally circular interior perimeter, and adjacent thereto a generally straight edge extends as a cord between spaced points along the perimeter of the generally circular central opening, including wiping bar 38. In such arrangement, when the bristles of a brush are drawn against the wiping edge of wiping bar 38 to remove the majority of excess paint, the generally straight edge of wiping bar 38 assures even wiping along the generally straight side of the brush. The raised shield adjacent wiping bar 38 assures that paint wiped off the brush stays within the general confines of the central opening and allows two stage wiping of the brush to either further wipe the brush or to prevent unintended dripping of paint onto the top surface of the brush tender.

In another embodiment, the top exterior perimeter of disk 30 includes a ridge or the like which resists the flow of paint which may drip on the top surface of disk 30 from

flowing over the exterior edge of disk 30. In another embodiment, the top surface of disk 30 is arranged so that when mounted to the top of a can, disk 30 is inclined from the outside perimeter thereof toward the inside perimeter, to enable paint which may drip thereon to flow toward the interior of the paint container.

Wiping bar 38 can be of any convenient size and dimension. Thus, wiping bar 38 may be a narrow flat or rounded bar extending as a cord from one point along the interior diameter to another point, with an opening in the arc between it and the interior perimeter of disk 30, or may be filled from one point to the other. Generally there may be an opening of some nature between the edge of the cord and the interior perimeter of disk 30 to enable excess paint which may be wiped from a brush to drain into the container. In one embodiment, the wiping shield extends beyond the boundaries of the cord formed by wiping bar 38. Wiping bar 38 may include an angled side wipe bar extending therefrom which enables the simultaneous wiping of a wide first side and an adjacent narrow side of the brush.

[0063] As shown in Figure 7, exterior perimeter 31 is generally sized larger than the outside diameter of a selected conventional cylindrical paint can for which it is intended for use, and interior perimeter 32 is generally sized smaller than the interior diameter of the opening of such selected conventional cylindrical paint can. Top side 30a includes raised lip 30c along exterior perimeter 31 arranged to resist the flow of paint to the exterior sides of the paint can. Bottom side 30b of the disk includes generally concentric first and second raised shoulders 34 and 35 respectively, which form attachment slot 36. Shoulder 35 is sized and dimensioned to engage the inside perimeter of the opening to the selected cylindrical paint can and shoulder 34 is sized and dimensioned to engage the outside perimeter of such selected cylindrical paint can and securely grip the top of such selected cylindrical paint can in attachment slot 36 between the shoulders sufficient to resist casual removal of disk 30 from such selected cylindrical can.

[0064] Raised shoulder 35, includes raised ridge 35a which extends outwardly toward raised shoulder 34 of disk 30, raised ridge 35a being dimensioned to forcibly engage a

ridge generally comprised along the interior perimeter of the opening of conventional metal cylindrical paint cans for improving grip thereto. Gripping tab 37 is arranged along exterior perimeter 31 and is illustrated having opening 37a. Wiping bar 38, with openings 38b, is illustrated as forming a generally flat, straight cord edge 38a, between spaced points 32a and 32b along the interior perimeter 32. Raised wiping shield 39, extends upwardly from top side 30a of disk 30, along interior perimeter 32, from about spaced point 32a to about spaced point 32b. In the illustrated embodiment, wiping shield 39 extends beyond both spaced points.

In a further embodiment receptacle 1 includes one or more generally polygonal raised shoulders sized and dimensioned to closely surround polygonal bases of rectilinear paint containers formed from plastic. Generally, plastic rectilinear containers do not comprise the base ridge generally found on metal cylindrical and polygonal containers, and the raised shoulder having the securing means is generally sized and dimensioned to engage the outside surface of the wall of the container. In such embodiment the raised shoulder is generally taller than the raised shoulder for cylindrical metal can embodiments, but again, the presence of one or more horizontal or vertical ribs therein improves the security of the container to receptacle 1.

In a still further embodiment, a kit containing a receptacle having a paint can securing means arranged to engage one or more cylindrical paint cans, additionally includes a removable paint can securing means. In such arrangement the removable paint can securing means includes a base having a circular raised ridge configured to engage a circular securing means of receptacle 1 and an upper section having a raised shoulder or the like for engaging an unusual sized cylindrical can and/or a rectilinear paint container. Alternately, the additional removable paint can securing means may comprise a base having a rectilinear raised ridge configured to engage a rectilinear securing means of receptacle 1 and an upper section having a raised shoulder or the like for engaging a different sized rectilinear can and/or one or more cylindrical paint containers.

[0065] FIGS. 10-12, illustrate a further embodiment of a slot shielding device of the invention generally having a disk 40, having a top side 40a, a bottom side 40b, an exterior perimeter 41, an interior perimeter 42 and central opening 43.

In yet another embodiment the brush tending or slot shield disk includes means for securing a paint brush in an upright position in the paint container. Any suitable securing means is appropriate, for example, a resilient gripping means arranged to secure a plurality of variable sized painter's brushes to the brush tending disk may be used. The brush tending means may be an elongate resilient member, which is arranged within the central opening of disk 40 in a normal position with a gripping surface thereof proximate to or engaging a backing surface along the interior perimeter of disk 40 in such a manner that forcibly deforming the resilient member from its resting position moves the gripping surface thereof away from the backing surface sufficient to place a painting brush therebetween and release of the resilient member forcibly engages and secures the brush between the gripping surface and the backing surface.

The elongate resilient member may be molded to disk 40 and includes a finger grip at about its remote end to enable convenient forced deforming of the member from its resting position. The backing surface may be a raised wiping shield along the top surface of a cord between spaced points along the perimeter of a generally round central opening.

[0066] Top side 40a includes raised lip 40c along exterior perimeter 41, arranged to resist the flow of paint to the exterior sides of the paint can. Generally concentric first and second raised shoulders 44 and 45 respectively, arranged along bottom side 40b, form attachment slot 46. Raised shoulder 45, includes raised ridge 45a which extends outwardly toward raised shoulder 44 of disk 40, for improving grip. Gripping tab 47, is arranged along exterior perimeter 41 and is illustrated having opening 47a. Wiping bar 48, forming opening 48b is illustrated as forming a generally flat, cord edge 48a, between spaced points 42a and 42b along the interior perimeter 42 with angled edge 48c extending inwardly into central opening 43 for engaging the edges of a paint brush. Raised wiping

shield 49, extends upwardly from top side 40a of disk 40, along interior perimeter 42, from about point 42a well beyond spaced point 42b.

[0067] In this illustrated embodiment, the brush tending device has means for securing a paint brush in an upright position in the paint container, having elongate resilient member 50, which is intimately molded at end 50a to interior perimeter 42, shown extending into central opening 43 of disk 40 in a normal rest position with gripping surface 50b proximate to backing surface 51 arranged along the interior perimeter of disk 40. Forcibly deforming resilient member 50 from its resting position moves gripping surface 50b thereof away from backing surface 51 sufficient to engage a painting brush inserted therebetween and forcibly engage the brush between the gripping surface and the backing surface.[0068] FIGS. 13-15 illustrate an embodiment of an adapter plate, useful for converting a topple resistant receptacle 1 having an intimately molded cylindrical paint can securing means to a means for securing a polygonal paint can. In the illustrated embodiment, adapter plate 60, includes generally polygonal base plate 61, having top surface 61a and bottom surface 61b. Top surface 61a includes an intimately molded, generally polygonal raised shoulder 62 extending upwardly from the perimeter of top surface 61a which includes inwardly extending ridge 62a at about its upper end, which is particularly suitable for gripping a mating base mold ridge generally found on recently commercialized polygonal plastic. Bottom surface 61b of base plate 61 includes a generally circular raised shoulder 63 which is intimately molded and extending upwardly therefrom, configured to engage a mating generally circular raised shoulder of a cylindrical paint can securing means of a topple resistant receptacle. Raised shoulder 63 is sized and dimensioned to be representative of a cylindrical metal paint container and outwardly extending ridge 63a, is sized dimensioned and configured to represent a typical base ridge formed at in connecting the base of a metal paint container to the cylindrical side thereof. In operation, raised shoulder 63 of adapter plate 60 is grasped by the securing means of topple resistant receptacle 1 as it would grasp a conventional generally cylindrical metal paint container, with outwardly extending ridge 63a functioning as the base ridge of the container.

[0069] FIGs. 16-18, illustrate an embodiment of a ladder hook 70 shown mounted to a generally rectilinear end 75 of topple resistant receptacle 1. In general, ladder hook 70 assists in securing topple resistant receptacle 1 to conventional ladders. Topple resistant receptacle 1 may be sized and dimensioned to be conveniently and securely positioned between rungs of a conventional straight ladder.

[0070] As illustrated, ladder hook 70 is formed from a continuous metal rod, having a generally "U" shaped first end 71 configured to removably mount to a rung 80 of a ladder 81. Ladder hook 70 also includes ~~and~~ two spaced opposite ends 72 and 73, arranged to connect at spaced positions to a generally rectilinear end 75 of topple resistant receptacle 1. During manufacture, ladder hook 70 is formed from a metal rod, which is folded over to form closely spaced generally parallel rods 83 and 84 connected at folded end 85. Rods 83 and 84 are thereafter bent away from each other to form two spaced opposite ends 72 and 73. Opposite ends 72 and 73 are bent at points 90 and 91 such that rods, 83 and 84, bend downward such that they are parallel to each other. Spaced apart rods 83 and 84 terminate at ends 72 and 73, which form hook portions 95 and 96. Hook portions 95 and 96 are suitable to insert through openings 87 and 88 along opposite walls of the generally rectilinear end 75 of receptacle 1. Thus ladder hook 70 is securely attached to receptacle 1.

A spacer 74, is arranged proximate "U" shaped end 71. Spacer 74 engages the generally parallel spaced rods 83 and 84 to retain the spaced integrity thereof proximate to "U" shaped end 71. Spacer 74 is formed from a resilient material and a resilient or non-resilient tab 74a is arranged to removably grip a wire handle 76 of a conventional cylindrical paint container 97 between tab 74a and generally parallel spaced connected rods 83 and 84. Spacer 74 provides added stability to ladder hook 70. Tab 74a prevents wire handle 76 from getting in the way of a user. Additionally, tab 74a provides additional protection from paint container 97 falling from receptacle 1.

When positioned on a ladder 81, as shown in FIGS 17-19, first end 99 of topple resistant receptacle 1 is positioned to rest securely on a lower rung 92 of a ladder while

second end 75 of receptacle 1 is mounted to elongate ladder hook 70; thereby holding receptacle 1 in a fixed, generally horizontal position when ladder 81 is leaned against a wall or the like. Generally "U" shaped hook 71 is dimensioned and configured to mount to a generally cylindrical higher rung, and at its lower end means for mounting receptacle 1 thereto. Therefore, receptacle 1 and its contents are securely attached to ladder 81 as it leans against a wall or building.

Although described with respect to specific embodiments, it should be understood that various changes and/or modifications could be made to the invention without departing from the spirit thereof. For example, variety of suitable means for mounting receptacle 1 to the elongate ladder hook means are contemplated. Thus for example, in a spaced double walled embodiment of receptacle 1, suitable ladder hook can include a simple "U" shaped arrangement at the lower end thereof dimensioned to insert within the slot between the walls of an open double-walled receptacle. The outer wall may include an opening therein through which the opposite end of the ladder hook can be inserted. In a further embodiment the outer wall may include a key slot opening having a generally rectilinear slot an enlarged round opening at an end thereof, and the opposite end of the ladder hook is dimensioned to slide in the matching slot key with an enlarged head enabled to allow inserting through the enlarged round opening of the key slot but resist removal when positioned along the rectilinear slot. Therefore, the specific embodiments disclosed herein are to be considered illustrative and not restrictive. Instead, the invention is only intended to be limited by the scope of the following claims.